

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Primary Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

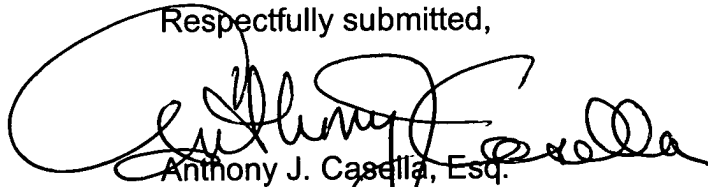
Accordingly, original claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 5. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and such is respectfully solicited. Claims 2-4, 6, and claim 7 depend from claim 1 or claims depending therefrom, and it is also respectfully submitted that such dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 12, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is likewise in condition for allowance, along with dependent claims 9, 10 and 11.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 6-11 define patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is respectfully solicited.

If the Primary Examiner has any questions relative to the above, he is respectfully requested to telephone collect applicant's attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony J. Casella'.

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